HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
Applications for Demolition and Relocation Permits
December 2, 2026
DA 2026 132279; SP-2023-0269C
2309 Rio Grande Street

Proposal

Demolish a ca. 1925 residential building, converted into offices in the mid-twentieth century.

Architecture

The building is a two-story office building originally constructed by noted Austin architect and contractor Rex D. Kitchens as a single-family residence with two apartments on the second floor. It was converted into dental offices in the late 1940s and early 1950s. The 2020 North Central historic resources survey describes the building as an American Foursquare plan with Craftsman and Italianate ornamentation. It has a hipped roof clad in asphalt shingles, double-hung wood windows, horizontal wood siding, and double doors at the top and bottom floors. The first-floor entryway includes multilight transom windows atop each door. Masonry piers with decorative quoins support the second-floor balcony.

A 1925 Statesman article notes that the home is "a new idea" designed by architect Kitchens. "The first floor of the building is devoted to living rooms, dining room, bedrooms, kitchen, bath, front and back porch. Two apartments occupy the second floor and each is furnished…R.H. Buck was general contractor."[1] It appears to be the earliest example of this type of building in the area. Kitchens, an innovative builder and banker, had recently constructed other apartments in Hyde Park and would soon go on to open his own construction company in 1933, which would lead high-profile projects such as the Buford fire training tower and the Commodore Perry Hotel, and would pioneer lightweight precast concrete construction methods in Texas after the Second World War.[2]

Research

The home's earliest occupants were the Hofer family, who lived in portions of the building from 1925 to 1952. Harry V. Hofer was the city's claims supervisor and assistant superintendent of mail before he moved to the University area; during his tenure in the house, he was promoted to postal cashier for Austin's mail system. He also worked within the Austin Post Office organization as a representative, lobbying to bring postal conferences to the city. In 1920, he served as publicity manager for an internal push to raise wages for postal employees.

Ethel Hofer was extremely active in the Ladies' Auxiliary to Branch Nine, National Association of Postal Supervisors, and was their longstanding president. An effective leader and organizer, Mrs. Hofer served as delegate to several postal conventions.

By 1952, the Hofers had sold their house and their two upstairs tenants had departed. The home was purchased by dentist James W. Gossett. Dr. Gossett converted the first floor into offices but appears to have retained residential renters for some time on the upper floor. Gossett continued to practice for nearly thirty years, and his practice was taken over in the same location by Dr. Gordon Walling in 1980.

Department Comments

The application first appeared on the November 4, 2026 agenda of the Historic Landmark Commission agenda. The Commission postponed the public hearing to December 2, 2026. The Commission's 75-day timeline for action will elapse on January 18, 2027.

Property Evaluation

The 2020 North Central (University-Windsor-Hyde Park) survey recommends the building as eligible for local landmark listing and individual listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

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[1] The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 19 Oct 1925: 8.
[2] https://ahc.access.lyrasistechnology.org/repositories/2/resources/1734

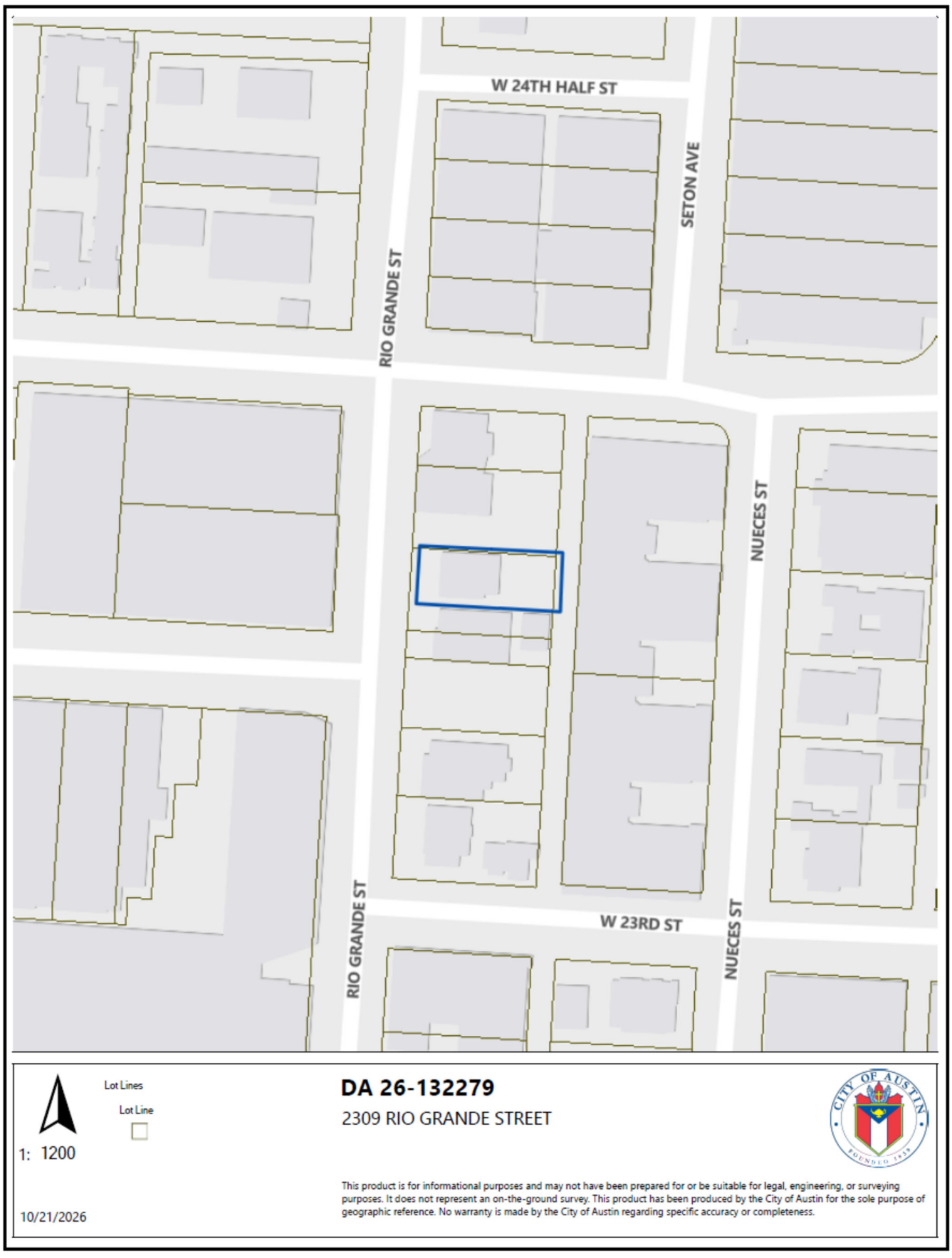
Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark

1) The building is more than 50 years old.
2) The building appears to retain integrity. Though the second-floor balcony likely had a roof that was removed during 1979 renovations, most of its form and its overall placement appears to remain intact. Other modifications, such as the rear addition, appear to have been constructed prior to the 50-year age cutoff.
3) Properties must meet two criteria for landmark designation (LDC §25-2-352). Staff has evaluated the property and determined that it may meet two criteria for landmark designation:
    a. Architecture. The building is a unique example of an early multi-family dwelling designed by Rex D. Kitchens.
    b. Historical association. The 2020 North Central survey notes that the property appears to have significant historical associations with Post Office claims supervisor Harry V. Hofer. Though staff did not find examples of Hofer's impact on the organization was sufficient to meet the criterion, the Historic Landmark Commission may wish to consider the cumulative impact of the Hofer family on the city's postal organization, as Mrs. Ethel Hofer was a leader in its auxiliary functions.
    c. Archaeology. The property was not evaluated for its potential to yield significant data concerning the human history or prehistory of the region.
    d. Community value. The property does not appear to possess a unique location, physical characteristic, or significant feature that contributes to the character, image, or cultural identity of the city, the neighborhood, or a particular demographic group.
    e. Landscape feature. The property is not a significant natural or designed landscape with artistic, aesthetic, cultural, or historical value to the city.

Staff Recommendation

Should the Commission find that the building meets the criterion for historical associations in addition to its architectural significance, initiate historic zoning. Otherwise, encourage rehabilitation and adaptive reuse, relocation, or deconstruction and salvage over demolition, but approve the demolition permit application upon completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package, as the applicant has agreed to explore options for salvage and reuse of historic materials.

Location Map



Property Information

Photos





Historic resources survey, 2020



Google street view, 2023

Occupancy History
City Directory Research, October 2026

1976	Lynn Binnion Cedar Frost Dr. J.W. Gossett
1959	James W. Gossett, dentist Raymond D. Ferguson
1949	Furnished apartments, Harry V. Hofer, owner
1942	Harry V. Hofer, owner
1937	H.V. Hofer, owner Mrs. Elizabeth Young, renter
1932	Harry V. and Ethel Hofer, owners – Post Office foreman Margaret J. Hofer, renter
1927	Harry V. and Ethel Hofer, owners – Post Office foreman
1924	Harry V. and Ethel Hofer, owners – foreman, state postal depository
1922	Not listed

Historical Information

POSTAL CLERKS' MEETING

AUSTIN BRANCH TO BE REPRESENTED BY SIX DELEGATES IN ANNUAL CONVENTION AT HOUSTON.

Six delegates from the postoffice clerks at the Austin postoffice will attend the state convention of the Texas Postoffice Clerks' association, which will be held at Houston, April 21. They are Henry Bastian, Ed A. Junck, Paul Miller, Harry V. Hofer, E. L. Davis and the state vice president, C. E. Huddeston. C. B. Anderson of this city will deliver an address. The program, beautifully decorated in gold letters,

CLERKS WILL LEAVE JULY 3RD

Will Make Strong Effort to Bring Convention Here.

Carrying long, attractive ribbon badges and a number of folding posters filled with colored views of Austin scenes, representatives of the local organizations of the United National Association of Postoffice Clerks and National Association of Letter Carriers will attend the joint State convention of those associations to be held in Houston July 4 and 5 with the strong determination to bring to Austin the 1916 convention.

The co-operation of the Austin Chamber of Commerce in preparing Austin advertising matter has been obtained and a large number of ribbon badges are being printed. The badges will be three inches long by eight inches wide and will bear a view of the dam and Lake Austin. The admonition to "Vote for Austin for 1916" will be printed on the ribbons.

In addition to the badges, the local men will carry a number of picture posters showing numerous Austin scenes. Appreciation of the help of the Chamber of Commerce has been expressed by the local representatives of the two organizations.

Fort Worth is to be a strong bidder for the 1916 convention, it is understood, and Dallas will line up forces for its sister city. The Austin men have expressed the determination to wage a strong fight, however.

Harry V. Hofer, W. H. Cunningham and Frank Resneshek will represent the local organization of United National Association of Postoffice Clerks. T. I. Minter and Henry Kuhlman are the representatives of the National Association of Letter Carriers from Austin. Others besides the official delegates are expected to attend the convention.

The delegates will leave Austin at noon July 3. Delegate Chrietzberg from Georgetown will go with the Austin party, which will meet the Dallas-Fort Worth crowd at Hempstead.

"We are going to pin badges and talk Austin right and left," said Harry V. Hofer, one of the postoffice clerk delegates.

The Austin Statesman (1902-1915); Austin, Tex.. 28 Mar 1910: 8.
The Austin Statesman (1902-1915); Austin, Tex.. 24 June 1915: 2.

PROGRAM FOR THE CONVENTION OF POSTAL EMPLOYES

Postmaster General Burleson has advised the program committee for the annual joint State convention of postal clerks and carriers which will meet here July 3 and 4 that he will not be able to attend. Several other revisions also will have to be made in the program. S. M. Gaines, superintendedt of the eleventh division of the Railway Mail Service, who was to have made an address will not be able to attend. It is not yet known whether Governor Ferguson and Congressman Buchanan, both on the first day's program, will be able to participate.

The program committee, composed of Harry V. Hofer, chairman; E. L. Davis, L. F. Miller, H. F. Harper and H. M. Spain, now is at work shaping up the revised program. About 250 visitors are expected to be here. The Dallas letter carriers' band which won second prize at a National convention will be present, according to advices received. Convention headquarters will be at the Driskill Hotel and the sessions will be held in the Driskill parlors. Although each order, the National Association of Letter Carriers and the United National Association of Post Office Clerks, has its officers there is a joint association formed for the purposes of the joint conventions of which H. G. Reasnshe kof Austin is president, L. A. Juhring of Austin treasurer and C. E. Huddleston of Austin secretary, the officers being selected from the convention city.

dead letter department. The registry division has three clerks, and during the fiscal year ending July 1, 1918 there were 41,441 pieces of registered mail sent out of this office. This business has increased about 100 per cent in the past two years.

A feature of the registry and money order departments is the service now extended to the people in the country. They can fill out an application and hand the money to the rural carrier, who buys the money order, or registers the piece of mail, and sends it on for them when he reaches Austin. This is really less trouble than the city folks have to take in order to use this service, and makes it very convenient.

Two substations of the main postoffice are maintained in Austin, one

$7,5990.33 were also issued during the same period. This was a considerable growth in business over the preceding year. In the year ending July 1, 1918, 223,606 money orders were paid at the local postoffice for a total of $1,567,539.03, and in the year ending July 1 of this year, 131,314 such orders were paid for a total amount of $1,104,395.08, showing a decrease in the amount paid out for redeeming money orders.

Harry Hofer is assistant superintendent of mails, in charge of the Registry Division, and also in charge of the supplies for the postoffice and the

The Austin Statesman and Tribune (1915-1916); Austin, Tex.. 25 May 1916: 7.
"Austin Postoffice Is Headquarters for State." The Statesman (1916-1921); Austin, Tex.. 27 July 1919: D2.

P. O. EMPLOYES WILL HEAR REPORTS ANENT THEIR PAY INCREASE

Local postoffice employes in all departments, expect to meet en masse in the basement of the postoffice building early this week to hear reports of committees appointed to present their case in regard to insufficient salaries, before the business and civic clubs of Austin, according to H. V. Hofer, in charge of publicity for the movement.

All organizations in the city, scheduled for a conference, have given the postoffice committees and speakers the desired hearing, and have expressed opinions in favor of raising the salaries it was said.

H. M. Spain, of University station office, is to present the matter of saving the efficiency of the postoffice by increasing the salaries, to the Kiwanis Club at Monday's luncheon of that organization, and W. F. Kuhn is to talk on the same subject to the Rotarians Tuesday at a noon luncheon, and when this is done the program outlined will have been finished, Mr. Hofer said. The mass meeting will then be called of all postoffice employes to consider the reports, he added.

HUMANE SOCIETY SENDS BOOKS TO PRISONERS

Austin American-Statesman. Sun, May 16, 1920 ·Page 16



GIVE A

CHECK PROTECTOR

SECURITY

FOUNTAIN PENS

A NEW INVENTION

PERFECT CHECK PROTECTOR, using acid proof red ink, is concealed under the cap.

Five new features.

Five-year written guarantee.

Cost no more than a other good fountain pens.

$3.50 to $7.

Not Sold Thru Dealers

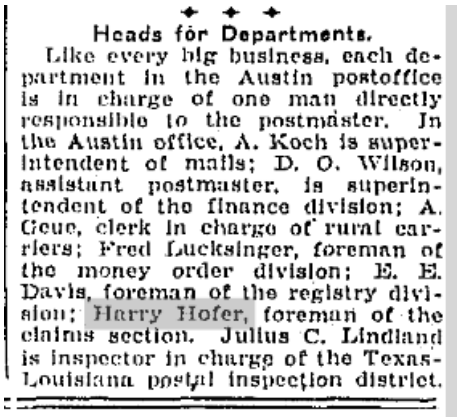
Mrs. Harry Hofer

Sales Manager for Travis County

At J. C. MORRIS' GIFT SHOP

812 Congress Ave.

From 2 until 6 P. M. Daily



Heads for Departments.

Like every big business, each department in the Austin postoffice is in charge of one man directly responsible to the postmaster. In the Austin office, A. Koch is superintendent of mails; D. O. Wilson, assistant postmaster, is superintendent of the finance division; A. Geue, clerk in charge of rural carriers; Fred Lucksinger, foreman of the money order division; E. E. Davis, foreman of the registry division; Harry Hofer, foreman of the claims section. Julius C. Lindland is inspector in charge of the Texas-Louisiana postal inspection district.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 16 Dec 1923: 9.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 12 Mar 1925: 2.



Apartment House And Home Combined

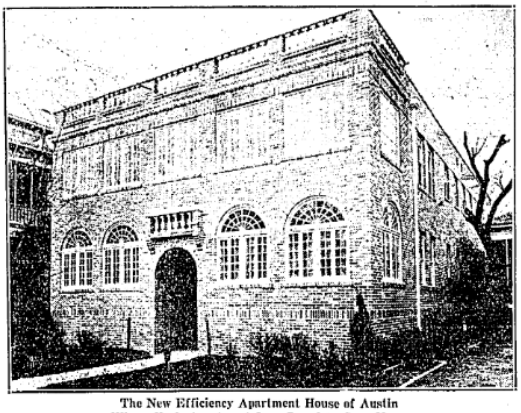
A new idea in a combined home-apartment house has been carried out by R. D. Kitchels, architect, here in the erection of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hofer, recently completed. The first floor of the building is devoted to living rooms, dining room, bed rooms, kitchen, bath, front and back porch. Two apartments occupy the second floor and each is furnished with bed rooms, dining and bath rooms, with kitchens and front and back entrances. R. H. Buck was general contractor.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 19 Oct 1925: 8.

SPEEDWAY ARMS

1918 Speedway
J. B. Nitschke, General Contractor
Rex D. Kitchens, Advisory Architect, Phone 8392

Lime, plaster and Metal Lathe Furnished by
Austin Builders' Supply Co.
Phone 7230



The New Efficiency Apartment House of Austin
Where Each Apartment Is a Complete Cozy Home

The Planning and Planting of the Yard and Shrubbery By the
Austin Nursery
F. T. Ramsey & Son

Brydson Lumber Company
Building Materials and Planing Mill
Builders of Beautiful Homes
Sold on Easy Terms
Mill Work for this Apartment
Furnished by
Brydson's

Corbin Builders' Hardware
Used Exclusively on This Apartment
Corbin Hardware is Most Suitable
for Better Built Buildings
W. H. Richardson & Co.

The Garland Furnace
and All
Metal Work and Roofing Furnished
and Installed By The
Co-Op. Tin Shop
605 San Jacinto St. Phone 8358

Mr. and Mrs.
Hilliare F. Nitschke
cordially invite the
public to call and
inspect the
Speedway Arms
Today—2 to 10 p. m.

These Apartments are Furnished
With Murphy In-A-Door Beds
And Kerner Incinerator
Furnished by
The Walter Tips Company

Wiring and Electrical Fixtures
...by...
W. Twining
2203 Dam Boulevard
Phone 6320

PAINT WORK
Done by
R. E. Merrill
Phone 6414

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 17 Dec 1925: 2.

In the Pictures

MISS MARY SMARTT is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. M. P. Smartt. She is a junior in Austin high school, a member of the Girl's Athletic association, of the Rainbow Girls and the Girl Scouts. She is active in the high school Little Theatre, and has taken part in a number of its plays.

MISS MYRTICE MORRIS, daughter of Mrs. John Morris of Bend, is a graduate of Lampasas high school, and has won honors in declamation at a number of county meets.

MISS MARGARET JANE HOFER, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry V. Hofer, made an all-A average in her class in junior high school. She is president of the Museum club, a new organization of junior high school, is a talented pianist, and has other interests too numerous to mention.



Photo by Jensen Studio
Margaret Jane Hofer

More Gains Added

Also, Mr. Nalle said he has requested the addition of more postal employes here to handle the increase in the business of the Austin post office.

The Austin post office's record last year caused the addition of a money order cashier and a postal cashier to the staff here. Don Wilson, former money order clerk, was elevated to the post of money order cashier, and Harry Hofer, foreman of the claims and dead letter department, became postal cashier.

These raises were based on the 1936 increase in the postal business here, and the first six and one-half months of 1937 have shown a big increase for the same 1936 period, Mr. Nalle said.

The Austin American (1914-1973); Austin, Tex.. 16 Mar 1930: A1.
The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 27 July 1937: 10.

Postal Group to Spend Part of Week-end Vacation For Discussion of Work

Refuting the old one about taking a walk, postal employees will turn to Dallas this week-end to spend part of their vacations in discussion of their work.

They will attend the state convention of postmasters, rural carriers, supervisors and United National Association of Post Office Clerks together with the Federal Employes association that takes in internal revenue, department of agriculture and other government workers. The Dallas convention, to be in session Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, will attract about 2,500 persons.

Adolph Geue, who is paymaster for 2,500 rural carriers in Texas, will address the rural carriers' section of the convention. Postmaster Ray E. Lee will attend Tuesday. Mrs. Harry Hofer as state president of the supervisors' auxiliary will preside over her section program. Mrs. E. A. Haschke is state secretary-treasurer of the supervisors' auxiliary, while Mrs. E. L. Johnson, local president of the clerks' auxiliary, is first vice-president of that state auxiliary.

Supervisors from the Austin office who will attend are Adolph Koch, Max Schramm, H. V. Hofer, T. B. Stephens, E. A. Haschke and Mr. Geue. Clerks who will attend are B. F. McCoy, J. H. Arend, W. K. Dill, Mrs. Ruby Ray, H. L. McClintock, E. L. Johnson and Leon Hoppe. C. L. Fox is the only rural carrier listed to attend.

The following wives are planning to attend their auxiliary meetings: Mesdames Harry Hofer, E. A. Haschke, Max Schramm, Adolph Geue, T. B. Stephens, J. E. Shelton, B. F. McCoy, J. H. Arend, W. K. Dill, Eddie Dill, H. L. McClintock, E. L. Johnson and Leon Hoppe.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 19 July 1940: 7.

MRS. HOFER TO DIRECT GROUP

The auxiliary of the local branch of postal supervisors had its second meeting Wednesday at the home of Mrs. H. V. Hofer, 2309 Rio Grande.

At this meeting the following officers were elected: Mrs. H. V. Hofer, president; Mrs. Charles E. Huddleston, first vice president; Mrs. Adolph Koch, second vice president; Mrs. Max Schramm, third vice president; and Mrs. Elbert Shelton, secretary-treasurer.

On July 23 and 24, the state auxiliary will meet at Galveston. Mesdames Hofer, Shelton, Schramm and J. S. Gresham were selected delegates to the convention.

After the meeting refreshments were served.

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Mrs. Harry V. Hofer Installed As Head of Postal Auxiliary

Mrs. Harry V. Hofer was installed as president of the Ladies Auxiliary to Branch Nine, National Association of Postal Supervisors, at a regular meeting held in the postmaster's office Thursday.

Others installed by Mrs. Max Noe were Mrs. Mark Hall, first vice president; Mrs. J. D. Copeland, second vice president; Mrs. Oliver Bruck, secretary; Mrs. Herbert Grumbles, treasurer; and Mrs. Fred Beeman, publicity chairman.

As she took office, Mrs. Hofer made a talk on "What It Means To Be a Good Auxiliary Member." Outgoing president is Mrs. Bruck.

The following committee appointments were made by Mrs. Hofer:

Yearbook: Mesdames Emil Spillman, Tom Stephens, Don Wilson, B. F. McCoy, Lonnie Hornsby and Willie Kemp.

Social: Mesdames J. D. Copeland, Herbert Chalberg, E. A. Haschke, Tom Burdett, Mae Noe, Edsel Sowell, Clyde Craven, George Davis and Otis Bush.

Membership: Mesdames Mark Hall, Vincent Swenson, W. A. Epperight, Delmar Sears, Howard Anderson and Edgar Hunley.

Good cheer: Mesdames Henry Fouts, Marvin Evans, Carl Hobbs, W. T. Butler, Vernon Arnhamn,

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 15 July 1937: 6.
The Austin American (1914-1973); Austin, Tex.. 20 Jan 1952: C4.

GORDON L. WALLING, D.D.S.
announces the continuing of
the practice of
J. W. GOSSETT, D.D.S.
in
GENERAL DENTISTRY
2309 Rio Grande 478-2916
Hours: Tues: 9-5
Wed.: 10-8
Thurs: 9-5
Fri.: 8:30-5
Sat.: 9-12 noon

The Austin American - Statesman (1973-1980), Evening ed.; Austin, Tex.. 29 June 1980: 8.



Rex Kitchens, President of the Austin AGC 1948-49, and owner of the Rex D. Kitchens Construction Company

Turns out that the contractor for the Commodore Perry Hotel was Mr. Rex Kitchens, a prominent Austin builder and owner of the Rex D. Kitchens Construction Company started in 1933. (A number of drawings and other business documents from his construction company are housed in the Austin History Center and available online here.) Construction of the hotel began in 1948 and completion came in late 1949. Over those same years, Rex served as the President of the Austin AGC. In fact, Chapter archives note that on December 20, 1949, he presided over his last AGC meeting, a dinner held in the ballroom of the newly built Commodore Perry Hotel that attracted 174 members, wives and friends for the evening. Prior to dinner (*"A turkey dinner with all the trimmings…"*) guests toured the new building as well. (Construction and other photos of the hotel here.)



Construction of the Commodore Perry Hotel under in 1949 by Austin AGC leader Rex Kitchen's construction company

Austin Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America. "This Month in Austin AGC History – February Is Outstanding Construction Awards Month." 2021.
https://www.agcaustin.org/uploads/1/2/2/9/122909896/austin_agc_history_-_february.pdf

Biographical Note

Rex (Rexford) D. Kitchens, a lifelong Travis County resident, was born in 1905 and died in Austin on December 1, 1965. He was a builder, banker, rancher and civic leader. He started Rex D. Kitchens Construction Co. in 1933. He pioneered the light weight pre-cast concrete structure field in Texas following World War II. Examples of building accomplishments in Austin are the Commodore Perry Hotel, Perry-Brooks Building, Austin National Bank, Austin Savings and Loan Building, the Capital Plaza Shopping Center, and the fire training tower on W. 1st St. Rex D. Kitchens Construction Co. also constructed the main building at Texas Technological College as well as several of the Texas Instruments buildings.

Kitchens was active in the civic community and was on the board of directors of Austin Savings and Loan Association, officer of the Austin Chamber of Commerce, officer of the Austin Chapter of Associated General Contractors and director of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association. His interest in the community led him to provide some of his land for baseball and softball fields. Five fields used by the Manchaca Optimist Club are named for him, including the Rex Kitchens Youth Athletic Complex. In 1978, the fire training tower was renamed the Burford Tower and Kitchens Memorial Chimes.

https://ahc.access.lyrasistechnology.org/repositories/2/resources/1734

Buford Tower was initially constructed in 1931 and was paid for by a fire station bond fund. The architect, Roy White, worked at one of the most prominent firms in Austin owned by Hugo Franz Kuehne. In the early twentieth century Kuehne and his associates designed many prominent public buildings in the Beaux-Arts style. Their work is often cited as influencing the dominant architectural aesthetic, which defines downtown Austin to this day.

The tower features prominent use of red brick in an Italianate style. The ground floor contains three windows and an arched Romanesque door. The windows on the next four floors contain no panes, instead only rounded openings with limestone sills. Consistent with the building's function, these windows facilitated the flow of oxygen, which accelerated intentionally-set fires. The top floor of the tower features a distinct decorated limestone cornice with an intricate brick bonding beneath. Double-arched limestone windows with decorated columns are present on all four facades, and a second brick bonding pattern completes the top of the tower. The interior consists of concrete floors and a metal staircase reaching the height of the building.

Buford tower was situated in a scenic and sparsely populated area in the city. This location was carefully chosen to sit well above the expected 100-year flood plain of the Colorado River. Yet, only a few years after the tower's completion, the Great Texas Flood in April 1935 brought record rains to the region, and the river crested only a few feet from the tower base before receding to normal levels.

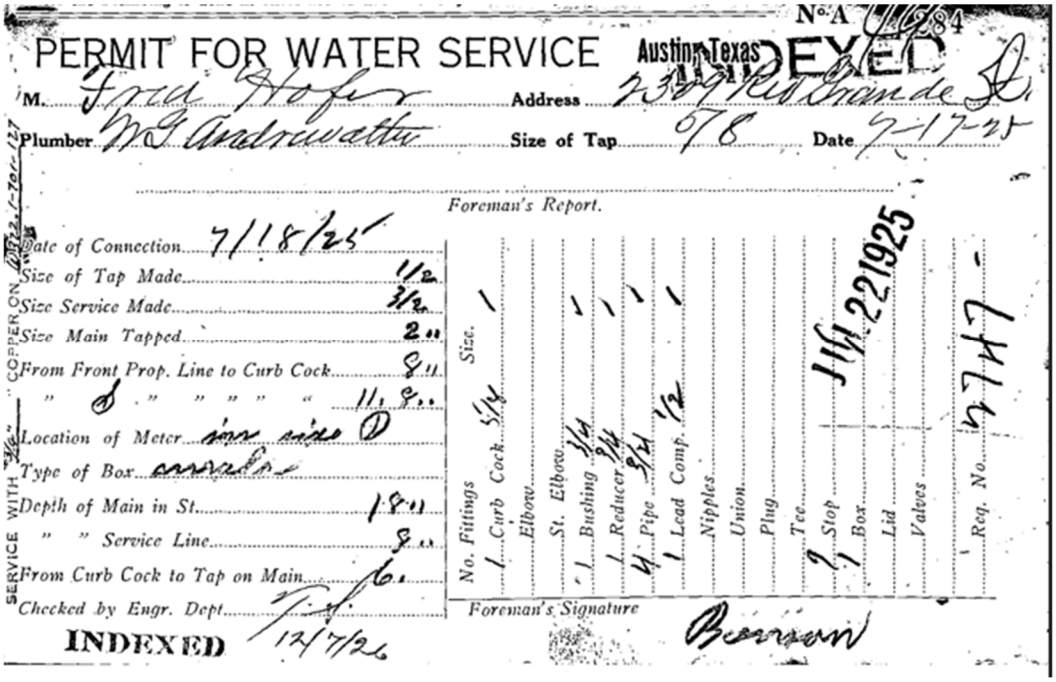
The fire drill tower remained operational for many decades. However, by 1974 city growth threatened its practical use. The tower stood in the heart of the downtown area on what became a busy thoroughfare. The tower was constructed before mandated easements became customary. Setting fires in the practice tower near a busy street was no longer safe. In 1974 the fire department officially ceded the building to the Department of Parks and Recreation and moved their drills to another facility. Additionally, the structure was renamed Buford Tower after a longtime veteran of the Austin Fire Department, Capt. James L. Buford, who died in the line of duty two years earlier. In an effort to rescue a teen in surging flood waters, Buford was swept away. In his honor, the city renamed the tower for his valiant efforts.

Following the fire department's departure, the tower quickly fell into a state of disrepair. The open-air windows of the structure facilitated an infestation of pigeons in the upper stories. However, in 1978 a dedicated group of volunteers began efforts to save the tower, with the initial impetus for restoration coming from Effie Kitchens. Her late husband, Rex Kitchens, participated in construction of the original tower in the 1930s. She wished to add a carillon and chimes named in honor of her late husband.

Kitchens pledged $30,000 toward the project and sought community assistance. A fund was set up with a goal of raising an additional $15,000. Further financial assistance came when the Austin Chapter of Women in Construction offered to help with both the campaign and the necessary repairs. The restoration work on the tower was completed in two phases. The first involved cleaning bricks on the tower. The second phase of the project involved the addition of a new roof and paned windows to cover the first through fifth floors. Wayne Bell, an Austin architect who worked with the original designer Roy White, designed ornamental grillwork and mesh on the uppermost windows to keep out pigeons. Bell ensured the new grillwork had an Italianate flavor and blended with the existing building aesthetic. An ornamental metal gate was affixed to the recessed front entrance. Buford Tower remains an innovative example of adaptive reuse in downtown Austin.

Nancy Semin Lingo, "Buford Tower," Handbook of Texas Online, September 16, 2015, https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/buford-tower

Permits


PERMIT FOR WATER SERVICE

No. A 16784

Austin, Texas 7-17-25

INDEXED

M. Fred Hofer Address 2389 Rio Grande St.

Plumber W. G. Andrewatte Size of Tap 3/4 Date 7-17-25

Foreman's Report.

Date of Connection 7/18/25

Size of Tap Made 1/2

Size Service Made 3/4

Size Main Tapped 2"

From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 8'

" Side " " " " " 11' 8"

Location of Meter 10" west side

Type of Box concrete

Depth of Main in St. 18"

" " Service Line 8'

From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 6'

Checked by Engr. Dept. T. C.

INDEXED 12/7/26

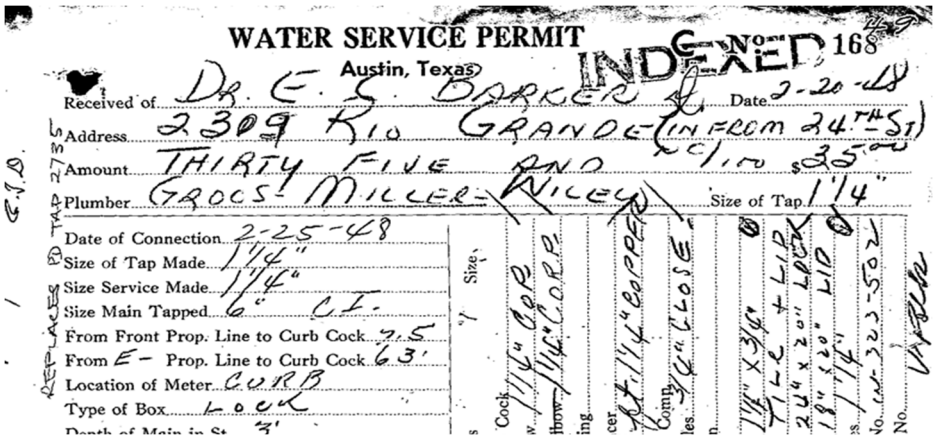
COPPER ON 3/4 I-Tail 127

SERVICE WITH 3/4"

No. Fittings	Size.
1 Curb Cock	3/4
Elbow	
St. Elbow	1
1 Bushing	1
1 Reducer	1
4 Pipe	1
1 Lead Comp.	1/2
Nipples	
Union	
Plug	
Tee	
1 Stop	
1 Box	
Lid	
Valves	
Req. No.	4747

JUL 22 1925

Foreman's Signature Beeman



WATER SERVICE PERMIT No. 168

Austin, Texas

INDEXED

Received of DR. E. S. BARKER Date 2-20-48

Address 2309 RIO GRANDE (IN FROM 24TH ST)

Amount THIRTY FIVE AND NO/100 $35.00

Plumber GROOS-MILLER-WILEY Size of Tap 1 1/4"

Date of Connection 2-25-48

Size of Tap Made 1 1/4"

Size Service Made 1 1/4"

Size Main Tapped 6" C.I.

From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 7.5

From E- Prop. Line to Curb Cock 63'

Location of Meter CURB

Type of Box LOCK

Depth of Main in St. 3'

REPLACES PD TAP 2735

E.J.D.

1-13-83 RTMS

Dr. J. W. Gossett 2309 Rio Grande St.

49 North 467' of 3 - 37 D

Remodel and alter residence to convert into dental clinic.

51418 7-17-52 $1200.00

Owner

9-4-79 185262 remodel exist porch of 2 stry fr comm. bldg.